

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed August 30, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Present Status of Patent Application

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 32-45 are pending in the present application. More specifically, claim 31 is currently withdrawn from consideration, claims 32-45 have been newly submitted without introduction of new material, and claims 1-30 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

A. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

I. **Statement of the Rejection**

Claims 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 22-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Panicacci et al. (US 6,885,396).

Response to the Rejection

As is known, a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. Furthermore, anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art of Panicacci does not disclose each element of Applicants' claims 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 22-30 as required for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully traverses the rationale set forth in the Office action to justify the rejection of Applicant's claims because the Office action improperly asserts that several elements are "inherently" present in Panicacci. As one example, the Office action alleges that Panicacci inherently discloses a transistor switch having a first, a second and a third electrode where the third electrode receives a first sample control signal (which, by the Office action's own admission, is not shown in Panicacci).

However, in the interests of moving forward prosecution in this case, and in the interests of clarifying the language of the claims, Applicant has opted to cancel claims 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17

and 22-30 and introduce several new claims instead. As a result of the cancellation, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot.

B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

I. Statement of the Rejection

Claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panicacci et al. (US 6,885,396) in view of Simerly et al. (U.S. Patent 5,982,424).

Response to the Rejection

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 is improper for at least the reason that the rejection does not satisfy the requirements of MPEP § 2143.03, which states in pertinent part: "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)."

Specifically, claims 6 and 7 are nonobvious because each claim depended earlier upon canceled claim 22 which has not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Similarly, claims 15 and 16 are nonobvious because each claim depended earlier upon canceled claim 23 which has not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

However, in the interests of moving forward prosecution in this case, Applicant has opted to cancel claims 6, 7, 15 and 16. As a result of the cancellation, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot.

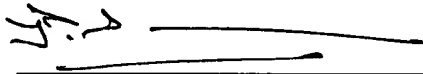
Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 32-45 (as well as withdrawn claim 31) are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative at (404) 610-5689.

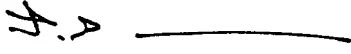
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on **28 November 2006**.



Signature
Name: P. S. Dara